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Message Text

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41
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SNM-02 SCA-01 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02

SCS-03 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 IO-10 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W
---------- 008332
O 231650Z DEC 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2021

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11319

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJ: CASC, MX
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH RABASA ON PRISONERS

FOR ARA-ROGERS; S/NM FOR VANCE; SCA-WALENTINOWICZ

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA DEC 22 ON OTHER MATTERS, I RAISED PRISONER ISSUE, TELLING HIM OF OUR DEEP CONCERN AND OF OUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND (WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WAS HERE) WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. I REVIEWED SITUATION FOR HIM AND HE WAS INTERESTED AND SYMPATHETIC. HE POINTED OUT THAT HIS RATHER STRONG, NATIONALISTIC REMARKS RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF REPORT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS WRITING HIM ON MATTER. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH US AS APPROPRIATE AND WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO SECRETARIES OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE, WHO WERE THE PRINCIPAL ACTION AGENCIES. HE URGED, HOWEVER, VERY STRONGLY THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD SECRETARY KISSINGER SEND HIM A WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AS THIS WOULD PROVOKE A COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE REACTION IN MEXICO IF IT LEAKED (AND IT CERTAINLY WOULD*) AND IT MIGHT EVEN CREATE A PROBLEM AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL.

2. HE SHOULD FEEL FREE, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE SPEAKING WITH HIM AND WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE GOM ON A
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REGULAR BASIS. HE DECRIED THE MULTI-CENTURIES OLD BAD

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TRADITIONS OF THE MEXICAN PRISON SYSTEM BUT AGREED WITH MY
POINT THAT ABOVE ALL THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PRISONERS SHOULD
BE RESPECTED AND THE CONVENTIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD
BE LIVED UP TO. I TOLD HIM OF THE RISKS TO MEXICO'S GOOD
NAME IF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS WERE NOT MORE ZEALOUSLY
OBSERVED.

3. IF APPROACHED BY THE PRESS HE HOPED WE WOULD EMPHASIZE
THAT NO LETTER HAS BEEN SENT OR IS BEING SENT BUT WE SHOULD
FEEL FREE TO SAY THE MATTER IS OF CONCERN TO THE USG AND
TO THE GOM AND IS THE SUBJECT OF CONSTANT CONVERSATIONS
BETWEEN US.
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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